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Art Unit : 1742
Docket No.: 2711/8

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: H. MURAKAMI et al.
Serial No.: 10/070,050
Filed : February 21, 2002
For : STEEL SHEET FOR PORCELAIN ENAMEL EXCELLENT IN
FORMING PROPERTY, AGING PROPERTY AND ENAMELING
CHARACTERISTICS AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING SAME

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PETITION FOR ADVANCEMENT OF EXAMINATION
PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1.102(d)**

SIR:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.102(d), applicants respectfully Petition for Advancement of Examination (petition to make special) for the above-identified patent application.

Deposit Account authorization for charging the petition fee required by 37 C.F.R. §1.102(d) as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(h) of One Hundred Thirty Dollars (\$130.00) is

Unity Of Invention

The above-identified patent application is a 35 U.S.C. §371 of International Application No. PCT/JP01/05420. Therefore, unity of invention is governed by 37 C.F.R. §1.475.

The present application contains claims directed to (i) a steel plate for enameling (product claims) and (ii) a process for producing a steel sheet for enameling (process claims). Therefore, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.475(b)(1), it is submitted that the claims of the above-identified patent application have unity of invention.

Prior Art Search

A prior art search was conducted in the International stage of PCT/JP01/05420. The International Search Authority was the Japanese Patent Office.

The field of search was International Classifications C22C38/00-60 and C21D9/46-48.

A copy of the International Search Report for PCT/JP01/05420 is enclosed in Exhibit A.

Note that all references cited in the International Search Report are identified as Category A, i.e., "documents defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance".

Copy Of References

EP 386758 A1

JP 8-27522 A

JP 9-137250 A

Derwent English language abstracts of the two Japanese references cited in the International Search Report are also enclosed in Exhibit A.

Completed form PTO-1449 is also enclosed in Exhibit A.

Discussion Of References

Claims 1 to 5 and 8 to 11 are pending in the application. Claims 1-5 are independent claims. Dependent claims 8 to 11 correspond to original dependent claims 6 and 7 rewritten in a Preliminary Amendment to eliminate multiple dependent claims.

First, the three cited references, i.e., EP386758 A1, JP8-27522 A and JP9-137250 A, fail to disclose or suggest the control of the content and/or size of boron nitride (BN) to fall within the ranges recited in independent claims 1-5 of the present application. Such control of boron nitride contributes to the improvement of the anti-aging property and the anti-seed and anti-black-speck properties (see items (2) and (3) on page 3 of the specification). Neither such control of boron nitride nor the benefits attained thereby is disclosed or suggested in the three cited references.

Second, the present invention can also be

EP 386758 A1 discloses a boron content of 0.007 to 0.020% by weight. This content is clearly different from that of the present invention, i.e., not more than 0.0050% by weight.

JP8-27522A discloses a phosphorus content of not more than 0.010% by weight. This content is clearly different from that of the present invention except for an overlapping at 0.010%. Although Sample No. 5 in Table 3 of JP `522 discloses a phosphorus content of 0.010%, the carbon content of this sample is 0.0024% and the manganese content of the sample is 0.31%. These contents are higher than the upper limits of those of the present invention, i.e., 0.0018% for maximum carbon content and 0.30% for maximum manganese content.

JP9-137250A discloses steels having higher oxygen contents. In fact, Steels 1-20 in Table 1 of Examples have oxygen contents of more than 0.050% by weight. These oxygen contents are higher than the upper limit of the oxygen content of the present invention, i.e., 0.050%. Please note that Steels 21-31 in Table 1 are classified as Comparative Examples.

It is therefore submitted that independent claims 1-5, and dependent claims 8-11, are patentable over EP 386758A1, JP8-27522A and/or JP9-137250A.

Conclusion

It is respectfully requested that this Petition For Advancement Of Examination pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.102(d) be granted.

Respectfully submitted

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